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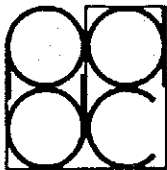
624 E Street, NW  
(Independence Federal Savings &  
Trust Association of Washington)  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-609

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



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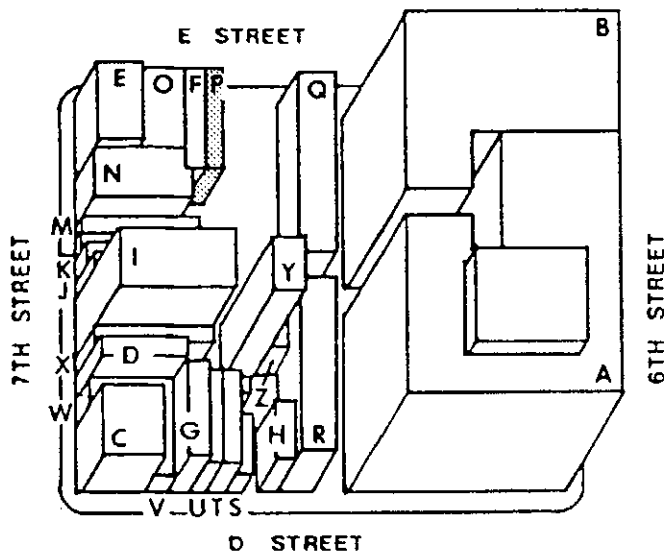
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS No. DC-609

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DC  
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350-

Independence Federal Savings and  
Trust Association of Washington, DC  
624 E Street, NW  
Lot 34



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 457, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 457, see HABS No. DC-597.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The site consists of a rectangular lot located in the western portion of the block. It is twenty feet wide by one hundred feet deep. The building's first floor is also rectangular, while the upper two floors have an L-shaped plan to allow for a light and ventilation well at the southeast corner. The adjacent building to the east has been demolished, exposing the well as a simple recess in the building's east elevation. At the west there is a party wall shared with a building of the same height. The building's facade to the north stands approximately forty-two feet above the sidewalk level. In recent years a false facade was installed in front of the original wall, hiding from view all original detailing up to the building cornice, at which line the screen wall treatment terminates. The original building design appears to be a three-bay facade with a neoclassical top entablature. The new design consists at ground level of a simply arcaded wall in a single plane, done entirely in dark beige brick. Above this arcade stands a curtain wall of hollow concrete masonry units, laid in stacked sailor courses to expose their single cell. Four piers of solid masonry units laid in similar fashion visually divide the two-story facade into three uneven bays with an 8-5-8 width proportion. The refacing stops just below the original entablature at roof level. This original element consists of two simple fascia bands that run between scrolled brackets at each end, which in turn support a denticulated cornice featuring an ogee crown molding. The building terminates in a brick parapet topped by continuous metal coping. Partially visible through the opening of the curtain wall is the original facade in beige brick. It features three window openings per floor, with flat brick arches resting on projecting jambs.

The rear and courtyard elevations are in red brick with segmental arched openings housing double-hung wood windows. A set of noteworthy fire stairs at the rear consist of a metal structure that bears on the building at the north and features its own metal columns in the south. The stair layout is of the dog-leg type with winders at intermediate levels. The generous dimensions of the full-level landings suggest rear porch areas at each floor. The risers of the stairs exhibit an interesting perforated tulip design.

The interior structure is basically wood framed with auxiliary steel members. The first floor is entirely open and has been thoroughly decorated in contemporary styling. The upper floors feature some of the original lay-out, identifiable by 8" molded

baseboards and paneled doors in ornate entablature. At the rear of the third floor there is one room still exhibiting all original moldings, including a chair rail.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This building, designed originally in 1903 by Appleton P. Clark as a store with apartments above (Permit #1630, 4/20/1903), is an important element in the series of similarly sized buildings extending east from Seventh Street. The fine cornice, though atypically located beneath a parapet, is a particularly noteworthy feature shared with the other buildings in the row. The altered facade (permit information not available), though more successful than most screen wall remodelings in the area, disrupts the rhythmic fenestration typical of the row. Its relative success can be attributed to the retention of the original cornice and to its articulation into three vertical bays. However, the small repetitive screen and the absence of any windows in the upper floors yield an ambiguity of scale that is mildly disturbing. The flat unornamented ground floor arcade is especially weak, particularly when compared to older masonry work in the area.

September 1979



E STREET (NORTH) FACADE



NORTH FACADE: DETAIL  
OF CONSOLE AND  
EAST END OF CORNICE



NORTH FACADE: DETAIL OF CORNICE AND PARAPET

Lot 15. (Sublots 827, 34)  
624, 626, 628 E Street

Lot 15, as platted in the 1872 Bastert Plat Map was rectangular in shape measuring 67 feet along E Street and 100 feet deep. The 1887 Hopkins Plat Map shows the subdivision of Lot 15 into three predominant rectangular lots. By 1903, the westernmost lot integrated with the adjacent Lots 13 and 14. The eastern and central lots became designated Sublot 34 and Sublot 827 and corresponded to 624 and 626 E Street.

1819.....Lot 15 was owned by David Bates, John Clancey's heirs and John Canton's heirs. No lot or improvement assessment was given in the District of Columbia Tax Records.

1824.....David Bates' heirs were assessed \$331.00 for their part of Lot 15. John Clancey's heirs were assessed \$304.00 for the ground value of their lot, and \$250.00 for the improvements to their property. The remaining part of Lot 15 was assessed to John Caton's heirs for \$268.00, with the improvements assessed at \$355.00.

1829/33..Jimmy Pickering took over the ownership of David Bates' section of Lot 15 and was assessed \$551.00 for the lot. Clancey's heirs were assessed \$506.00 for their property, and John Caton's heirs were assessed \$447.00 for theirs. Caton's heirs were also assessed \$300.00 for the improvements to the property.

1844.....Raphael Semmes was assessed \$662.00 for a part of Lot 15. John Caton's heirs were assessed \$537.00 and \$608.00 for the remaining two parts of Lot 15.

1859.....After this date, the Tax Assessment Records showed a division of Lot 15 into four sublots. These are given individual listings.

Lot 15 East (Sublot 34)  
624 E Street

1859.....The eastern part of Lot 15, or Sublot 34, was under the ownership of John Caton. The lot was assessed \$2,531.00.

1870.....John Caton's assessment dropped slightly to \$2,000.00.

1879/80..Mary King assumed the ownership of the property. The lot was valued at \$3,668.00.

1883/84..Sublot 34, now assessed to Carolina King, was still valued at \$3,668.00.

1886.....The City Directories site that Fannie Hickory operated a boarding house at 624 E Street during this time.

1891.....Annie C. Meier assumed the management of the boarding house at this location.

1893/94..Sublot 34, still in the name of Carolina King was assessed at \$5,495.00 for the ground and \$2,500.00 for the improvements.

1899/

1900.....The ownership of the lot was assumed by William Stevens, Jr., and was assessed \$4,496.00 for the ground and \$2,200.00 for the improvements to the lot.

1903.....A building permit was issued on April 20th to erect two structures at 624 E Street. The first structure was a three-story brick building to be used as a store on the first level, and a dwelling on the second and third levels. The second was to be a shed (Permit #1620; Architect: Appleton C. Clark; Builder: H. Lowe; cost: \$10,000.00).

1909  
to

1926.....The William Stevens and Sons Bakery occupied a space in the building according to the City Directories.

1916.....A building permit was issued on October 28th to build a brick smoke stack anchored to old walls of the three story bakery building.



1919

to

1924.....H. M. Bedell was a tenant of 624 E Street, as indicated by the City Directories.

1924

to

1940.....Harry H. Wasser, a baker, was a co-occupant of the building.

1927

to

1932.....The Universal Electric Company occupied space in the building for six years.

1931

to

1942.....The City Directories list Frederick B. Schnelling as the occupant of the building located at 624 E Street.

1943

to

1964.....The City Directories site the Ideal Bedding Company as a lessee in the building.

1981.....The building, as seen today is occupied by the Independence Federal Savings and Trust Association of Washington, D. C.

## SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment  
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map